taken for provision of reliable medium to the remaining one Tribal exchange. All 98 existing tribal exchanges are provided with STD.

2. *M/W system:* One system with 6.1 route KMs is provided and the same is upgraded with OFC medium during the current year.

3. *OFC:* 18 systems with 299.644 Route KMs are provided so far during the current year.

Opposition to labour reforms legislation

*280. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether leading trade unions in the country have expressed their opposition to Government's move to labour reforms legislation;

(b) whether they have observed a protest day on 14th March, 2002;

(c) whether they are against the disinvestment of Blue Chip Public Sector undertakings like VSNL; and

(d) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The Central Trade Union Organisations have been generally opposing amendments in labour laws unless these are perceived as beneficial to the working class.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) According to the Ministry of Disinvestment which is implementing the disinvestments of Public Sector Undertakings, the transaction relating to disinvestment in VSNL has been concluded recently and smooth transfer of management control to the Strategic Partner, Panatone Finvest Ltd. (Tata Group) has taken place on 13.02.2002.